

**U.S. Embassy in Singapore**

*Consular Section*

<http://singapore.usembassy.gov>

<http://www.travel.state.gov>

[SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov)

*Tel: (65) 6476-9100*

**American Citizen Services (ACS) Newsletter**

***April-May 2011***

The newsletter is our way of sharing topics of general interest as well as any changes in Embassy hours or procedures. We will continue to send time-sensitive announcements separately. If you need to update your registration (now called Safe Traveler Enrollment Program or STEP), please click [here](#). Please share your feedback with us at [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov). *Thank you!*

If you no longer live in or travel to Singapore, please send us an email with your full name and your request for removal to [SingaporeACS@state.gov](mailto:SingaporeACS@state.gov).

The U.S. Embassy is now on **Facebook**. Please click [here](#) and become a "fan" today.

**Topics covered in this Issue:**

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## **Upcoming ACS Closures**

The Consular section will be closed on the following dates in April and May 2011. For an emergency during these holidays involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100.

<b>April 14, 2011 (Thursday)</b>	<b>Consular Administrative Day*</b>
<b>April 22, 2011 (Thursday)</b>	Singapore and U.S. Holiday-Good Friday
<b>May 1, 2011 (Sunday)</b>	Singapore Holiday – Labor Day observed on Monday May 2, 2010
<b>May 12, 2011 (Thursday)</b>	<b>Consular Administrative Day*</b>
<b>May 17, 2011 (Tuesday)</b>	Singapore Holiday – Vesak Day
<b>May 30, 2011 (Monday)</b>	U.S. Holiday – Memorial Day

**Every Thursday afternoon** from 12noon onward we are routinely closed to the public for training and administrative purposes except for collection of passports between 3:00-3:30.

**Holidays:** The Embassy observes certain local and American holidays. On these days, the Consular Section will be closed. For an emergency involving an American citizen, please contact the Duty Officer at 6476-9100 at any time.

\* We will be closed for all routine American Citizen Services such as passport renewal, extra passport pages and notarial services on these days. We will be open for collection of documents only at 3:00 – 3:30pm. Regular services will resume the following working day.

## **Current Travel Warnings of Regional Interest:**

**Travel Warnings** are issued to describe long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable. Below please find a link to a Travel Warning for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Warnings for all regions, please visit:

<http://travel.state.gov>.

[Japan](#)

March 30, 2011

[Pakistan](#)

February 2, 2011

For more on Japan at our State Department website, click [here](#).

### **Current Travel Alerts of regional Interest:**

**Travel Alerts** are issued to disseminate information about short-term conditions, generally within a particular country, that pose imminent risks to the security of U.S. citizens. Below please find a link to a Travel Alert for a country of regional interest. For a complete listing of Travel Alerts for all regions, please visit: <http://travel.state.gov>.

[India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka](#)

February 17, 2011

### **Current Warden Messages of regional interest:**

**Warden Messages** are notices sent directly to American citizens to provide important information about local conditions.

[Visit of Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Dr. Jaczo to Japan.](#)

March 28, 2011

[Update on Tokyo water and potassium iodide tablets regarding Japan.](#)

March 25-28, 2011

[Protests in Sri Lanka about U.S. involvement in Libya.](#)

March 25, 2011

[Possible tsunami hitting eastern shores of Philippines.](#)

March 11, 2011

[Tsunami warning issued in Taiwan.](#)

March 11, 2011

[HINDRAF demonstrations possible in the vicinity of KLCC in Malaysia.](#)

February 27, 2011

[Cyclone Yasi expected to make landfall in Northern Queensland, Australia.](#)

February 2, 2011

### **Updated Country Specific Information for countries in our region:**

The Department of State maintains at all times Country Specific Information for every country in the world. This information is updated approximately twice a year or as necessary due to changing conditions. Recently, updates have been posted for the following countries in our region. See below. To research other countries in anticipation of a visit, [click here](#).

[Korea, Democratic People's Republic of](#)

February 23, 2011

<a href="#">South Korea</a>	February 4, 2011
<a href="#">Taiwan</a>	February 25, 2011
<a href="#">Laos</a>	March 7, 2011
<a href="#">Thailand</a>	March 8, 2011
<a href="#">Pakistan</a>	March 24, 2011

## **New Regulation Limits U.S. Passports to Three Consecutive Sets of Visa Pages**

Under a new Department of State regulation, the U.S. Embassy may add a **maximum of three visa page sets** to passports. Once you have had three sets of additional pages inserted into your passport, you must apply for a new passport. Click [here](#) for information on passport renewals. Please remember, you can retain your current passport while applying for a new passport. Another new change is if your passport is eligible, we can now **add two visa page sets for the price of one** (USD 82).

Passport pick up remains to be the following workday between 3:00-3:30pm in the Visa Services waiting room. You may **authorize someone** else to submit your application, pay the fee, and pick up your passport. They must come with their own photo ID and an authorization letter signed and dated by you giving them permission to submit the visa pages application and pick up your passport.

## **Highlighting a U.S. Agency: National Institute of Mental Health**

As the **lead Federal agency for research on mental and behavioral disorders**, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) envisions a world in which mental illnesses are prevented and cured. In consideration of this vision, the mission of NIMH is to transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through basic and clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery, and cure.

Click on one of the links below to understand more about a diagnosis, treatment, or prevention.

- [Anxiety Disorders](#)
  - [Generalized Anxiety Disorder](#)
  - [Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder \(OCD\)](#)
  - [Panic Disorder](#)
  - [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\)](#)
  - [Social Phobia \(Social Anxiety Disorder\)](#)
- [Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder \(ADHD, ADD\)](#)
- [Autism Spectrum Disorders \(Pervasive Developmental Disorders\)](#)

- [Bipolar Disorder \(Manic-Depressive Illness\)](#)
- [Borderline Personality Disorder](#)
- [Depression](#)
- [Eating Disorders](#)
- [Prevention](#)
- [Research on HIV & AIDS](#)
- [Schizophrenia](#)
- [Suicide Prevention](#)

## Connecting with NIMH

NIMH encourages public participation. You can:

- Attend [conferences and lectures](#)
- Use NIMH [health information](#) and distribute [publications](#)
- [Register for NIMH e-mail newsletters](#)
- [Subscribe to NIMH RSS updates](#)
- Participate in a [clinical trial](#)
- [Make a Contribution](#) to the NIMH Gift Fund

## Appointments Required for Minor Passports and Consular Reports of Birth

We **require** appointments to submit **Minor passport** applications. Save yourself time at the Embassy by planning ahead. Please go to our website [here](#) to find the application and list of documents required. We also **require** appointments to submit application forms for parents to **report a birth abroad**. For all of the documents needed for this appointment, including applying for a first time infant passport, please go to our website [here](#).

**Who** is eligible for an appointment?

Only infants and children **under the age of 16** who also must be present

**Why** make an appointment?

It will **save you time** at the Embassy. We seek to help families by holding them no more than an hour from intake, to the end of the Consular Officer interview. We recommend arriving 15 minutes early outside the embassy so that you may arrive on time for your appointment.

**Where** to make a minor passport or report of birth abroad appointment?

This is a hyperlink to access the [\*\*appointment system\*\*](#).

## The Latest from the IRS

## U.S. Tax Forms and Taxpayer Questions

The Embassy no longer has IRS tax forms as **all can be printed from the IRS** website by going to this link here: [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). There is not a U.S. Internal Revenue Service in Singapore. The Consular Section is not authorized to accept any forms or filings for U.S. income taxes and will not forward completed returns to the IRS. Should you have **taxpayer questions** you may **contact** the Internal Revenue Service Office at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing at email: [irs.beijing@irs.gov](mailto:irs.beijing@irs.gov).

### Taxpayers Abroad Can Choose IRS Free File; Don't Forget to Report Foreign Accounts

March 25, 2011

WASHINGTON — Taxpayers abroad can now use [IRS Free File](#) to prepare and electronically file their returns for free, the Internal Revenue Service announced today.

Five Free File companies can handle returns filed from foreign addresses. This means both U.S. citizens and resident aliens living abroad with adjusted gross incomes of \$58,000 or less can use brand-name software to prepare their returns and then e-file them for free.

This option may be especially attractive to taxpayers living and working abroad who claim the foreign earned income exclusion. That's because the \$58,000 income limit applies after the exclusion of up to \$91,500 is subtracted, thus effectively making Free File available to many higher-income taxpayers. Eligible taxpayers claiming this exclusion on [Form 2555](#) or the foreign tax credit on [Form 1116](#) should check their software to ensure it supports these forms.

To get started, go to [www.irs.gov/freefile](http://www.irs.gov/freefile) and select "Pick a Free File Company." Taxpayers also can use Free File to request an extension if they cannot meet the regular tax deadline. Free File will be open until Oct. 17, 2011 to accommodate taxpayers who get the regular six-month tax-filing extension, as well as people taking advantage of the special June 15 tax-filing deadline available to taxpayers who live and work outside the U.S.

The IRS reminds U.S. citizens and resident aliens that federal law requires them to report income from all sources, both foreign and domestic, including income from foreign trusts and foreign bank and securities accounts. In most cases, affected taxpayers also need to fill out Part III of [Schedule B](#), including reporting the country or countries in which the accounts are located.

In addition, taxpayers with foreign accounts whose aggregate value exceeded \$10,000 at any time during 2010 must file Treasury Department [Form TD F 90-22.1](#). This form is due June 30, 2011, and is filed with the Treasury Department. Details on this requirement are in [Publication 4261](#), Do You Have a Foreign Financial Account?

The IRS today again urged taxpayers who, in the past, failed to disclose foreign accounts or report foreign income to take advantage of the agency's new [Offshore Voluntary Disclosure Initiative](#). Announced last month and available for a limited time only, this special initiative is designed to bring offshore money back into the U.S. tax system and help people with undisclosed income from hidden offshore accounts get current with their taxes. Taxpayers participating in the new initiative must file all returns and pay any taxes, interest and accuracy-related penalties due by Aug. 31, 2011. Full details are on [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)

### Topic of Interest: Getting Married in Singapore?

All persons, including American citizens, who desire to marry in Singapore, must do so according to Singapore law. Marriages in Singapore can be either civil or religious. In both instances a **license has to be obtained from the Singapore Registrar of Marriages**. Persons intending marriage, whether Singaporeans or foreigners are required to produce passports and evidence of the termination of any previous marriages, if any, i.e. divorce decrees or death certificates. A **15-day continuous residence in Singapore is required** of one of the parties to the proposed marriage. At the end of this period, either party must file a notice of intention to marry with Singapore's Registrar of Marriages. For more about marriage in Singapore from our State Department website, please click [here](#).

It could be required of you to provide an **Affidavit of Marriage** which is a sworn statement where you declare that you are eligible for marriage. We can provide this service for you with a notarial fee of US\$50. You may walk in during our public hours, take a queue number and wait to be seen. We do not accept appointments for this service. The **United States does not have a Registry of Marriage and therefore does not need to be notified** that an American is getting married outside of the U.S. A Singapore marriage certificate is recognized by the U.S. as an official legal document. To access **Singapore's Registry of Marriage** website for further guidelines, click [here](#).